

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 19, 2023 @ 6:30PM

This Meeting is IN PERSON (Town Hall) For Board Members With the Exception of the Occurrence of
Extraordinary Circumstances

IN PERSON and VIRTUAL for the Public

Google Meet: meet.google.com/tqz-efzm-xbh Join By Phone: (US) +1 224-814-1308 PIN: 632 413 079#

RECORDING NOTICE

- **PRESENT**

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Abi Mesick, CAATS Tammy Shaw, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Highway Superintendent James Fetzer

ABSENT Destiny Hallenbeck , Rick Werwaiss

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Supervisor Collins called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and led the pledge of allegiance.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Fertel, Bridge House Vintage- owns a business next to the bridge and watches near misses all day long. When cars are going west on 295 turning left on to the bridge. 75% of the cars don't go directly on to the bridge. Matter of time before something bad happens. Some sort of raised platform so drivers know where they need to be.

David Johns-NC resident-concerned about speeding. Read from a prepared statement and wants something done about the STR. They want cameras, flat top speed humps and lower the speed limit to 30, as well as Speed limit devices. Collins-were the accidents that happened reported to Police? Yes.

Mesick-reducing the speed limit on a state road may not be something in our power, TS cameras will not hold up in court.

Another NC resident-it is a historic hamlet and speed trailers will change the look of the hamlet.

Collins-we are endeavoring to change all the speed limits in all hamlets to 30 mph in addition to other measures that are already in the works.

Mike Clerkova-NC resident-google maps rerouting brought all the traffic through NC and the increase in population here brought more speeding.

Collins- housing and construction boom here but it all adds to increased traffic.

Tom- Watervliet-uses cobblestone strips to slow traffic.

Collins-Those who install these things are liable for any damage it may cause to vehicles traveling over them.

Ian-drivers from 17 aren't stopping at the sign. It's the same drivers he sees on a daily basis. Create a culture of involvement. Create partnerships with officials. Intergovernmental collaboration.

Collins-looking into cameras on school buses to catch drivers.

John Feing-Bunker Hill and rt 32. A lot of changes in the hamlet. It's become a heavy truck route. He doesn't see police in the hamlet, Bunker and Route 32 is hazardous.. Imperative that there be a solution

Koivula-Bunker Hill resident-speeding concern.

Morrison-NC resident big change in traffic going way too fast. Suggests a step-down speed limit coming from Niverville. 55-40-35 mph.

Many more North Chatham residents spoke on the speeding problem and offered suggestions.

Shaw-thanked Abi for heading up the Traffic Safety Working group. It all boils down to law enforcement. There is a process and procedure to lower speed limits. Henry Swartz, CC Public Safety Chair will do what he can to help. It was suggested that the Sheriff and Troopers be invited to the next meeting of the Traffic Safety working group.

Ellen-People have to be held responsible for bad behavior.

Wapner- talk to the Village Police about coming out of the Village.

KG- spoke on motorcycle accident. Does someone have to die before we get some help?

Collins-signatures are impactful and the working Group will be meeting with higher government.

Pitkin-maybe gatherings like this will bring awareness to the problem.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Columbia County Hazardous Waste Disposal Day (Sunday, October 29th: 8:00 am - 12 pm, 50 Grandinetti Drive)
2. Dark Sky Presentation Chatham CSATF: 2pm October 28th- North Chatham Library

- **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Chatham | Re: 5G Summit |
| 2. County Route 9 | Re: Meeting Minutes |
| 3. Thomas Road | Re: STR Regulation |
| 4. Route 203 | Re: NC Speeding |
| 5. County Route 9 | Re: Housing |
| 6. Ridgeview Drive | Re: STR |
| 7. Albany Turnpike | Re: OC Speeding |
| 8. Pitts Road | Re: STR |
| 9. Thomas Road | Re: Dust Palliative |
| 10. Phelps Road | Re: HWY job well done |

- **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Broadband Committee- (Councilman Pitkin/Councilwoman Hallenbeck)
Didn't meet. Processing 5G information.
2. CAP (Chatham Agricultural Partnership)- (Supervisor Collins)
Farm Tour- decent participation for a drizzly day.

3. Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee- (Councilman Werwaiss)
Collins couldn't attend, Werwaiss absent. Northern Cohort get together to discuss the issues. Pursue the grant Climate Action of Hudson Valley.
4. Communications Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick)
Newsletter is almost ready to publish. The FB page has now topped 1011 followers, 221 Instagram followers.
5. Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick)
On October 7th the Committee moved the Comp Plan draft to the town board for their review. Abi stated that it was wonderful working with the committee. Abi listed all the Committee members and thanked them for all their hard work.
6. Finance & Planning Committee- (Supervisor Collins)
Met last week, 2024 budget oriented. We're in good shape. Putting together projections on the fund balance. Shaw contacted the BOGC and they were able to make changes to 2 of our accounts and we've seen an increase in revenue from higher interest rates..
7. Housing Committee- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck/Councilwoman Mesick)
From Destiny- Monday at 6:30. 100 surveys turned in. 3 million in housing funding announced.
8. Parks & Recreation Committee- (Councilman Pitkin/Supervisor Collins)
CARP report is optimistic- if the Town was to take over the Freund Preserve they would help build trails. A lot of use at the Park. Security cameras being installed. Vandalism at the Park. Pond aeration being installed. Tractor is coming. Tim Mackerer-we should be thinking about ice skating. On the frog pond.
Pitkin- Village news- Dec 9 is Winterfest. October 28 police doing a drug takeback day at the Tracey Memorial from 10-2. Offender Watch app tracks sexual offenders.
9. Grants Appropriations Committee (Councilman Werwaiss)
Being reviewed and applied for. Greenway, digitalization and de.....
10. CAC (Councilman Werwaiss)
Haven't met on quite some time
11. Invasive Species Awareness Committee (Councilwoman Mesick)
Working on fact sheets. Abi asked the Committee if they wanted to come to a workshop meeting and add to the newsletter. Collins thought maybe they could do laminated description card/handouts to pass around.
12. Town & County (Supervisor Collins)
Lengthy report on file.

Mesick said that they are still looking for hamlet representatives for the Traffic Safety Working Group. Old Chatham, East Chatham, North Chatham are already represented.

- **REPORTS ON FILE:**

1. Assessor-
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector-on file
3. Dog Control-on file
4. Environmental Mgt Council
5. Finance Department-on file
6. Highway Department-on file

7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director
10. Supervisor's Report-on file
11. Town Clerk-on file

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Tri-Village Fire Company Public Hearing for Equipment Purchase (11/16/2023)

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2024 Budget Review
We've reviewed all funds. Still holding at the decreases.
2. Short Term Rental Law
 - Comments from County Planning
 - Fee Schedule -sits outside the local law
 - Public Hearing Notice: 11/2/2023
3. Comprehensive Plan Update: Draft from CPURC Committee
 - Board Input
 - Public Hearing Notice: (11/16/2023)
 - Notice of Completion
 - Notice of Circulation to Interested Agencies (10/19/2023)
 - 30 day public comment period (Begins 10/19/2023)
 - Lead Agency (10/19/2023)
 - EAF (11/02/2023)
4. Building Department Software Upgrade - 20 to 25K for upgrade
5. Columbia County 911 Tower on Town Property-Collins will ask the Board if we can dismiss the application fee of \$2000.00. A MOTION was made by Collins to waive the \$2000.00 application fee. Pitkin seconded and motion carried.
6. Speeding in the hamlets

- **SEQRA PROCESS for Local Law G of 2023: Short Term Rental Law**

1. **Resolution #174-23: To Declare the Town Board Lead Agency of the Town of Chatham for**

SEQRA

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Chatham has determined that it is necessary to adopt a local law for short term rental regulation, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town to complete the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) process, and

WHEREAS, a Lead Agency must be chosen to conduct the SEQRA process as a necessary step in the adoption of the Local Law, and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby declares itself Lead Agency for the SEQRA process of Local Law #G of 2023.

Offered by: Pitkin , seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

2. SEQRA

Short Environmental Assessment Form -Part 1-Project Information

Local Law G2023:Short Term Rental Law

1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance administrative rule or regulation? A MOTION was made by Collins to answer “YES”, Mesick seconded and motion carried.

Part 2-Impact Assessment

On questions 1-11, a MOTION was made by Collins to answer “No or small impact may occur”, Pitkin seconded and motion carried.

Part 3-Determination of Significance

A MOTION was made by Collins that it was determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Pitkin seconded and motion carried.

3. **Resolution #175-23: To make a Negative Declaration for SEQRA on Local Law G of**

2023: Short Term Rental Law

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Chatham has determined that it is necessary to adopt local laws:

- **LOCAL LAW G of 2023: Short Term Rental Law**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town to complete the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) process, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has previously declared itself as Lead Agency for such review on October 19, 2023 and has conducted a close look at all potential environmental issues and found none, and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby makes a Negative Declaration for SEQRA process and determines that will not be any substantial potential negative impacts to the environment as a result of the enactment of the local law.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

- **SEQRA PROCESS for Comprehensive Plan Update**

1. **Resolution #176-23: To Declare the Town Board Lead Agency of the Town of Chatham for SEQRA**

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD FOR THE Town of Chatham
In the Matter Lead Agency, Circulation and Classification for the SEQRA Review
Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received and reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham deems that it should serve as Lead Agency for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) Review;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham has caused to be prepared a Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, there are no other interested or involved agencies except the Columbia County Planning which will only be performing the General Municipal Law 239 review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan is a Type I action.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby determines that the Town Board shall serve as Lead Agency for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) and is further

RESOLVED, that the Town shall circulate this resolution, determination and the Plan to all involved and interested agencies; and it is further

RESOLVED THAT the action is hereby classified as a Type I action.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Collins

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

- **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution#177-23: To Approve the Town Board Minutes.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board approves the Town Board Minutes for September 7, 2023 and September 21, 2023.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Halleneck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

2. **Resolution#178-23: To Accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor Report for September, 2023.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

3. **Resolution#179-23: To Accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town Bills.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Financial Abstract #10 and Abstract #10A as presented to pay the Town Bills.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

4. **Resolution#180-23: To Remove Inventory from Highway Department**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board authorizes the removal of the following items from the

Highway Inventory and to sell as surplus or junk:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • 1984 JD Tractor | (Inventory ID# H-04-84-02) |
| • 2000 Stalker Speed Trailer | (Inventory ID# 100) |
| • 2002 York Rake HT-10 | (Inventory ID# 381) |
| • 2002 Bomag Roller | (Inventory ID# 396) |
| • 2005 Case Tractor JX1090U | (Inventory ID# 523) |
| • 2006 Sweepster CP-96 Tow Behind | (Inventory ID# 539) |
| • 1977 Dodge Fire Truck | (Inventory ID# 760) |

- 2014 Econo Trailer-12T (Inventory ID# 797)
- 2015 Econo Trailer-7T (Inventory ID# 888)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chatham Town Board to authorize the above items to be removed from Highway inventory and to sell as surplus or junk.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

5. **Resolution#181-23: To Move the 2024 Tentative Budget to Preliminary Budget**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board has reviewed and discussed the Tentative Budget for 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board has considered the fire protection and EMS contracts between the Town of Chatham and the Chatham Fire Department, Niverville Fire Department, Tri-Village Fire Company, East Chatham Fire Company, Red Rock Fire Company, Chatham Rescue Squad and Valatie Rescue Squad, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board moves that the Tentative 2024 Budget be moved to the Preliminary 2024 Budget and directs the Town Clerk to post a Public Hearing Notice to be scheduled on November 2, 2023 at 6:30PM for the purpose of accepting public comment on the 2024 Preliminary Budget and comment on the fire protection and EMS contracts between the Town of Chatham and the Chatham Fire Department, Niverville Fire Department, Tri-Village Fire Company, East Chatham Fire Company, Red Rock Fire Company, Chatham Rescue Squad and Valatie Rescue Squad.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

6. **Resolution#182-23: To Set a Public Hearing for Local Law G: Short Term Rental Law**

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Chatham has determined that it is necessary to establish a Short Term Rental Law, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town to hold a public hearing to accept public comment prior to a vote to enact such local law, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby schedules the public hearing for November 2, 2023 at 6:35PM.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

7. **Resolution#183-23: To Set a Public Hearing for the Tri-Village Fire Company in Relation to the Proposed borrowing**

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Chatham will conduct a Public Hearing in relation to the proposed borrowing by the Tri-Village Fire Company to finance the purchase of a new top mount pumper fire truck, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby schedules the public hearing for November 16, 2023 at 6:40PM.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

They are borrowing according to statute and are required to get our approval

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

8. **Resolution#184-23: To Set a Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Update 2023**

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Chatham has determined that it is necessary to update the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham duly appointed a Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee solicited and utilized the input of the public through a written survey, workshops, public meetings, focus groups and a public hearing to formulate the contemporary Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee formally submitted the Plan to the Town Board of the Town of Chatham after conducting its public hearing on October 7, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham has reviewed the Plan and wishes to move it forward to adoption, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town to hold a public hearing to accept public comment prior to a vote to enact such a Plan, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby schedules the public hearing for November 16, 2023 at 6:30PM.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

On a MOTION by Mesick the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM, Pitkin seconded and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk